

REMARKS

The claims are 5 to 8.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

In this regard, the specification and claims have been editorially revised and a substitute specification is presented.

With regard to the rejections of claims 1 to 4 as indefinite, antecedent basis is provided in the new set of claims where the term “the anaerobic microorganisms” in previous claims is now recited as “anaerobic microorganisms”.

With regard to the rejection of the term “feeding the substrate that rate is equal to alkaline consumption rate”, this term now reads “feeding the substrate at a rate based on an alkaline consumption per unit time.” If the Examiner prefers, this could be changed to “feeding the substrate at a rate based on alkaline consumption rate”.

Claims 1 to 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 58-98085.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

(1) In the present invention:

- a) the residual glucose concentration of the culture liquid is controlled by feeding a substrate based on an alkaline consumption per unit time;
- b) specific activity of the fermentation can be maintained high and anaerobic continuous fermentation become stable for long term operation; and
- c) anaerobic microorganisms are continuously cultured.

(2) In the cited reference:

- a) the feeding speed of a substrate is based on added amount of pH reagent; and
- b) aerobic microorganisms are cultured, but not continuously cultured. In this regard, the life-cycle of aerobic microorganisms differs from the life-cycle if the anaerobic microorganisms.

To conclude, the cited reference is entirely unsuggestive of the present invention in terms of purpose, compositions, and effects.

Accordingly, the rejection is untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 28, 2005